This issue of eFolio continues the fall tradition of celebrating our study aboard programs. This past summer our students traveled to Asia and Europe and in the fall we had 23 students living and studying in our Genoa Program.

Each year, the department’s students and faculty review our Learning and Studio Culture Policy. This fall, we added travel to the list of our core values:

**Travel – The Architecture Department values travel both locally and abroad. Immersion in other cities and cultures provides our students with critical experiences. The firsthand interaction with completed buildings and those under construction enrich learning throughout the curriculum.**

Our students and faculty venture around the world to see great cities, buildings, landscapes, and feats of engineering and new technologies. The initial encounter results in an intimate understanding of a work of architecture providing the architect with a satisfaction similar to the joy of conceiving and realizing his or her own work. At FIU, both experiences occur collectively: we travel and work together. The department’s will to raise travel to the height of an embedded value of education sees the world as a place of profound enrichment: one of invaluable diversity of thought, cultures, contexts and customs.

In addition, I am pleased to congratulate our students for sweeping this year’s AIA Miami Student Design Awards. Two students from Associate Professor Eric Goldemberg’s Spring 2016 Master Project Studio, Matthew Wasala and Heidy Acevedo won for their final projects. Assistant professor, Nick Gelpi, joined these students by winning this year’s AIA Miami Devine Detail Award.

If the job of a successful lecture series is to provide outside stimuli not found in the daily work of a school, then this semester was a resounding success! This fall’s lecture series was our most diverse ever: we invited architects, historians, biologists and performance artists. The packed, standing room only presentation by Viktoria Modesta was the highlight of the fall. She captivated our students (and faculty alike) with her life story and powerful work.

It is gratifying to see our department engage the world. In study abroad, we enjoy seeing and experiencing as much of it as we can. In our lecture series we take pride inviting visitors from diverse backgrounds and locals.

Jason R. Chandler, AIA
Chair and Associate Professor
Department of Architecture
Florida International University
College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts
Architects Students Sweep the 2016 AIA Miami Design Awards Gala

On October 28, 2016 the AIA (American Institute of Architects) Design Awards Gala was held to celebrate architecture and design. The intention of the awards gala is to encourage excellence in architecture and its related fields, elevate appreciation of good design and recognize the work of local architects in the South Florida region.

The gala was held at the Little Haiti Cultural Center in Miami, FL and awards recipients, AIA members, sponsors and friends were in attendance. The event kicked-off at 6:30PM with a reception serving Caribbean hors d’oeuvre and delights followed by the awards presentation which featured FIU faculty and students as recipients.

Architecture students, members of the AIAS FIU Chapter, received design awards including Matthew Wasala, a Honor Award for ZTower; Heidy Acevedo, a Merit Award for Bioenergetic Palafitic Network; and Vikki Tou Liu as Student of the Year.

After the award presentation, the night continued with music, desserts and champagne to keep celebrating the architecture and design community that plays a significant role in Miami’s diverse culture.
Spectators, faculty and family members gathered near the Green Lake by FIU’s Dorothea Green Library on November 10th, 2016 to watch architecture students do the impossible – ‘Walk on Water’. This year, the event hosted by the Department of Architecture, celebrated its 27th year of its inception and has become a staple event for Florida International University.

FIU Architecture Professor Jaime Canaves started the race 27 years ago for the students of his Materials & Methods of Construction class. The race consists of designing and building ‘shoes’ to cross the lake without falling into the water. Over 50 students signed up to participate in the competition, allowing for two separate races of $1000 prizes to take place.

Winners of the first race, were FIU’s Immanuel Miranda-Burns and William Valle Pinto and the second race victory went to Adriana Garcia and Patricia Ponce from FIU as well.

This year, with the help from sponsor CGI Impact Resistant Windows & Doors, Walk on Water, was a state wide event. For the first time, student teams from Palm Beach State College and the University of Florida joined in and participated in the race.

The future plans for the Department of Architecture and event organizers is to make FIU’s Walk on Water a nationwide event, allowing for students from numerous schools to participant in the spirit and tradition of FIU.
Assistant Professor of Architecture, Henry Rueda, along with his Fall 2016 Master Project Thesis class visited Chicago, Illinois from October 15th to 19th, to see and study the Midwest city’s historic buildings and architectural landmarks.

After the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, the metropolitan city saw the biggest building boom in the history of the United States. Since then, the city has been famed for its bold architecture and impressive skyline, including the neo-Gothic Chicago Tribune building and the second tallest building in the U.S. – the Willis Tower.

Students arrived in Chicago on October 15, 2016 for a day of design exploration. Their first visit was to the Farnsworth House, located in the outskirts of Chicago, in a town called Plano. The home stands as a landmark of Modern architecture designed by prominent architect, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in 1951.

On October 17th, the students visited downtown Chicago and toured “The Four Seasons” and the Federal Center building. Then they made their way to the Illinois Institute of Technology to visit two buildings: the S. R. Crown Hall designed by Mies van der Rohe in 1956 and the McCormick Tribune Campus Center designed by OMA Rem Koolhaas in 2003.

The next day, they headed to University of Chicago to see the Frederick C. Robie House built in 1909 by renowned architect of U.S. modern design, Frank Lloyd Wright. Next, they visited the Reva & David Logan Center for the Arts built in 2012 by Tod Williams & Billie Tsien, also a part of the University of Chicago.

This Master Project Thesis trip served as an opportunity to experience Chicago both as a student and a traveler; an educational trip to see and study architectural landmarks and a cultural trip to explore one of the most important cities in North America.
STUDY ABROAD
The School of Architecture Hosts Its 12th Year of Study Abroad in Genoa, Italy

This year marks the 12th consecutive year that Florida International University’s School of Architecture hosts their Study Abroad Program in the maritime Italian city of Genoa. The program led by Senior Instructor, Eric Peterson, offered its students an opportunity to live in an authentic Italian city while being exposed to historic and contemporary architectural sites.

Genoa, located in the Mediterranean on the Italian Riviera, has over 600,000 residents with 1.5 million in the greater metropolitan area. The city is home to largest intact medieval center in all of Europe and is part of UNESCO World Heritage site, making the infrastructure of Genoa polar opposites of Miami, FL. “The experience of actually seeing architectural projects is not something you can get from looking at images online,” said Katherine Araujo. “Being inside a building that you have read about in a textbook opens up a new way of seeing and understanding the architecture.”

The semester long academic program that consists of study trips across Italy, France, Germany and Switzerland; poly-lingual workshops with students and faculty from the University of Genova; lectures and academic instruction from full-time FIU faculty and Italian architects, art historians, language and cultural specialists; site visits to significant architectural projects and museums and lastly, visits to the studios of local prominent architects.

On the cultural side, the program allows the students to learn a new language encourages them to engage and appreciate daily life and culture in Italy. “I love to see how people live on a daily basis in another culture and to participate in the life of the city”, says Paula Soler about her semester experience so far.

Enrollment in the Study Abroad program truly offers a once in a lifetime experience, that expands students’ artistic, cultural and design capacity, while providing exposure to the work of the world’s leading architects.
Department of Architecture Students and Faculty Visit Japan to During Summer 2016

The Japan Study Abroad program focuses on allowing students to gain direct contact with extraordinary build projects. Japanese designers are today generating one of the most extraordinary body of contemporary architectural work in the world. Four of the last eight recipients of the most important award in Architecture in the planet, the Pritzker Prize, have been Japanese Architects. Also, in the past decade a large number of smaller ateliers have spurred a workable movement that have been able to move high-quality design into all types of projects from very small houses to large retail complexes.

During the first week our program visited works in the city of Tokyo. Entire neighborhoods in Tokyo such as Omotesando, Aoyama, Shinjuku, Ginza, Asakusa, and Roppongi have a big amount of extraordinary work by Japanese and international architects. Tokyo, with a population of 35 million people, is also a major cultural and urban hub with a large number of centers which allow students to see extraordinary examples urbanity. In the second week we moved to Kyoto, the cultural capital of Japan, and the islands of Naoshima and Teshima where we visited astonishing work such as the Teshima Art Museum by Ryue Nishisawa and the Chichu Museum by Tadao Ando.

Written by Professor Alfredo Andia
Mirrored Entryway at Tokyu Plaza Omotesando Harajuku | Architect: Hiroshi Nakamura. Photo by Alejandro Diaz

Street lights Shinjuku, Tokyo. Photo by Camilo Rosales
Using London and Berlin as the sites of our investigations and as our classrooms, we visited a broad array of exemplary projects that have set new standards for design practice – not only in Europe, but also around the globe.

The studio undertook two simultaneous and related projects, one situated in London’s Waterloo Railway Station, the other in Berlin’s Main Railway Station “Washingtonplatz”. Each addressed a range of emerging technologies, emerging environmental and social infrastructures, and the roles played by each of these elements in the creation of architectural experiences within urban space.

Site documentation and analysis took place during our visit to each city – and was articulated seamlessly through work in the accompanying seminars. The program for each of the studio projects was focused on the transformative power of branding strategies and the creation for such brands in highly transited areas such as the train stations and their immediate surroundings. Understanding the time-based operations and the fluid nature of public spaces and crowd behaviors was paramount to forging smart branding strategies based in site-specific interventions.

Each project responded to the broader themes of the study abroad investigations, while emerging from our specific discoveries and discussions in each city. We were able to enhanced the students’ cultural perception by visiting some of the best schools of architecture in London and Berlin including the Architectural Association, The Bartlett (UCL), the University of the Arts (UdK) and the Free University of Berlin, attending lectures and visiting their digital fabrication facilities.

Our activities abroad supported research on urbanism, the city as spectacle, and sustainability (environmental, social, economic). The studio taught at FIU – Miami Beach Urban Studios engaged students through in-depth case studies of built projects; through the art and technology of film and videography; through emerging models of analysis and visualization, and through the design of infrastructure and public space.

Written by Eric Goldemberg
Eric Goldemberg’s Collaboration with Viktoria Modesta Revolutionizes Prosthetics Design

Associate Professor, Eric Goldemberg, alongside Veronica Zalcberg from MONAD Studio teamed up with Anouk Wipprecht to design 3D printed instruments and interactive sonic body enhancements for UK based, bionic pop artist, Viktoria Modesta.

The collaborative effort consisted of the incorporation of different disciplines that include architecture, design and art to create a new form of artistic expression. The result being a transdisciplinary endeavor that pushes the boundaries of design, fashion, engineering and technology to break the preconceived notion that one must always practice their own discipline.

Goldemberg, Zalcberg and Wipprecht put forth their best attributes to begin a study that focused on the natural world and the different methodologies that govern our bodily movements, structure and environment. They used everything from simple sketches to 3D printed elements a create titanium instruments and a prosthetic leg and sonic bustier for Viktoria, equipped with sensors and actuators that allow her to modulate the sound during her live performances.

After, Eric Goldemberg introduced Viktoria Modesta at a packed lecture exhibition at the Paul C. Cejas School of Architecture on October 27, 2016. They participated at the Young Artists Initiative party at the Moore Building in the Miami Design District in October and at two Art Basel performances at the New World Symphony in Miami Beach and the VICE Miami Headquarters.

Eric Goldemberg and Wipprecht, have been able to create architectural and fashion design hybrid projects that transcend human limitations; fabricating innovative objects that are both aesthetic and functional, paving the future for designers and manufacturing.
Malik Benjamin Appointed Changemaker Faculty Fellow for FIU

Last fall, Department of Architecture’s Senior Instructor, Malik S. Benjamin was appointed by Ashoka Universities a Changemaker Faculty Fellow for Florida International University in Washington, D.C.

The mission of Ashoka Universities is to bring together social entrepreneurs from top-tier universities and colleges to explore opportunities for the impact of social innovation in higher education. Benjamin, along with the Chief Financial Officer of FIU, Kenneth A. Jessell, attended the panel discussion regarding the need for collaboration to transform and evolve the field of higher education, on a federal level.

As part of Benjamin’s new role, he will serve as the primary liaison to Ashoka Universities helping connect FIU to other institutions and resources. Aside from expanding the Changemaker Campus network, he will coordinate and promote FIU’s social innovation and entrepreneurship strategy for faculty and student researchers by advocating curricular and extra-curricular activities, philanthropic initiatives and community engagement within FIU.

By taking this faculty fellow role, Malik will help align and implement the Changemaker Campus strategy with the strategies for FIUBeyondPossible2020, a program that will focus on transforming the paradigm of education into a 21st century model for the next generation.

Malik’s intention is to drive FIU’s social innovation and entrepreneurship strategies in order to become a conducive influence within our community and nationwide. His extensive list of professional credentials, leadership experience and community involvement make him a curator of culture and innovation that will stimulate real action & change within our institution.
Nicholas Gelpi + STA Architects Wins AIA Merit Award for Divine Detail for the Design of ‘Exotic Concrete House’

Assistant Professor, Nicholas Gelpi along with his design firm, Gelpi Projects + STA Architects, received a Merit Award for Divine Detail at the AIA (American Institute of Architects) Design Awards Gala this past fall.

The project awarded was the Exotic Concrete House & Gelpi Residence, built and developed in 2015 by Gelpi Projects + STA Architects. A development that began as a renovation to a small addition on a 1963 single-family home, in Miami Beach became an alteration to design and modern construction. Combining hybrid materials such as mineralized wood chips cast into concrete, they designed a house that is aesthetically pleasing and energy sufficient.

The design is comprised of 24” x 24” concrete tiles, which are 70% lighter than actual, structural concrete. The unique tiles have been constructed from Melaleuca Trees, a mineralized wood taken from invasive species in the Florida Everglades. This texturized building material is on the cutting edge of architectural design, helping turn a residential home into an environmental benefit. Aside from the environmental benefit, this new material also provides insulation and has sound absorbing qualities, offering a softer and quieter space for families.

Nick Gelpi and his family reside in this home testing this materials efficacy and proving that mixed media construction materials are a viable alternative to the more traditional ones.
David Rifkind Helps Curate, Visionary Metropolis: Tony Garnier’s ‘Une Cité Industrille’ at the Wolfsonian-FIU

Associate Dean of Students and Associate Professor, David Rifkind, was asked by the FIU Department of History to be a guest curator of Tony Garnier’s exhibition titled, Visionary Metropolis: Tony Garnier’s ‘Une Cité Industrielle’. The exhibition is part of the National Endowment for the Humanities grant awarded to Florida International University.

Visionary Metropolis features the work of Tony Garnier, an acclaimed French architect, which spent over a decade conceptualizing and illustrating a new urban plan that would benefit both the social and environmental aspect of society. He produced for this project, demonstrating his ideas on how rational design could mitigate the destructive impacts of industrial development. Essentially making Une Cité Industrielle, is one of the most prominent attempts to recreate the modern city.

The Visionary Metropolis exhibit was held at Florida International University’s Wolfsonian Miami Beach Museum and featured more than twenty designs, drawings and illustrations that Garnier produced. It was presented by Ecohumanities for Cities in Crisis (ecohumanities.fiu.edu), a series of events exploring the relationship between urbanism and ecology. It is supported by the Public Square Initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
Thomas Spiegelhalter, Associate Professor of Architecture and Co-Director of the Structures and Environmental Technologies Lab, was invited to present his “Carbon Neutral Buildings and Blue Infrastructure” projects and participate in an expert panel discussion in St. Petersburg, FL. The two-day conference was hosted at the University of South Florida in Tampa Bay was held on September 13 and 14. Spiegelhalter, along with Jason Bird from AECOM and others discussed initiatives on “Architectural and Engineering Solutions” to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise.

Throughout the two-day conference and workshop, experts exchanged experiences and addressed vulnerabilities to coastal hazards and explored potential regional solutions. The discussion discovered approaches to address coastal cities’ resilience and adaptations to climate change and sea-level rise.

The conference and workshop is organized by the Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR) of USF St. Petersburg, the ONE BAY Resilient Communities Working Group of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Tampa Bay Watch and the University of South Florida.

Thomas Spiegelhalter, Associate Professor of Architecture and Co-Director of the Structures and Environmental Technologies Lab presented his peer reviewed “PREDICTIVE MODELING NETWORK FOR PERFORMATIVE HEALTH DESIGN AGENTS AND POE’S” as part of the real world projects panel on MODELS, METRICS and METHODS at the UH East-West Center (designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect I.M. Pei) at the University of Hawaii at Manao, Honolulu on Sept. 23, 2016.

The presentation was part of the first-ever, joint three-day conferences and workshops for “Building for Health and Well-Being: Structures-Cities-Systems” between the U.S. Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) and Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) in collaboration with the AIA Task Force on Public Health Design. It was hosted by the University of Hawaii, School of Architecture in Honolulu between September 22 and 24, 2016.

The conference aimed to connect academics, practitioners, and policy makers who are exploring issues at the intersection of design, the built environment and public health at all scales – from material to buildings to landscapes to urban and social systems. Through additional small group workshops the 3-day conference also confronted constraints on and potential design, research and collaboration.
Nicholas Gelpi, Participated in the 2016 Edition of Design Miami

Assistant Professor, Nicholas Gelpi, participated in Miami’s Art Basel and Design Week 2016 alongside his design studio, Gelpi Projects.

Gelpi was invited to be a featured speaker at the Design Miami tent Thursday December 1, 2016. The lecture, hosted by Design Miami in conjunction with the United Nations, featured the launch of ‘Building Legacy: Designing for Sustainability’, a platform that promotes green infrastructure, architecture and design. The platform emphasizes in uniting designers, architects, and developers that will produce sustainable projects that will benefit generations to come.

The discussion was entitled ‘A Scientific Spirit: Symposium on Emergent Design Strategies’, a segment under Building a Legacy. Gelpi along with several other designers, higher education instructors and researches contributed to the talk.

Gelpi also displayed his 3D printed installation, Textured Light, at The Pérez Art Museum Miami Contemporaries Penthouse located at The Parisian Hotel in Miami Beach, FL. The Satellite Art Show and PAMM collaborated to produce the event that offered contemporary art as well as live music curation throughout Miami Design Week.

Discussion Participants:

- Nick Gelpi/ Principal, GELPI Projects LLC and Assistant Professor of Architecture, Florida International University
- Andrew Kudless/ Associate Professor, California College of the Arts, Founder, Matsys
- Jørgen Platou Willumsen and Stian Kornved Ruud/ Founders of Kneip
- Dana Stanesca/ Founding Partner FAMILY New York, Friend of +Pool
- Skylar Tibbits/ Co-Director, Self-Assembly Lab, MIT, Assistant Professor, MIT Department of Architecture
- Louisa Zahareas/ Conceptual Designer

Moderated by:

- Steven Tepper/ Dean of the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona State University
Academics

The Department of Architecture offers the Master of Architecture degree and the Master of Arts in Architecture degree. Whether you are a high school graduate, possess a 2- or 4-year college degree, or have a professional degree in architecture, our architecture program offers customizable tracks that range from 1 year to 6 years.

Master of Architecture

- MArch (6-Year)
- MArch (5-Year)
- MArch (3-Year)
- MArch (2-Year)

Master of Arts in Architecture

- MAA (1-Year)

We also offer the Graduate Certificate in the History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture.

NAAB Accreditation

In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes three types of degrees: the Bachelor of Architecture, the Master of Architecture, and the Doctor of Architecture. A program may be granted a 6-year, 3-year, or 2-year term of accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established educational standards.

The Doctor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degree programs may consist of a pre-professional undergraduate degree and a professional graduate degree that, when earned sequentially, constitute an accredited professional education. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree. The Department of Architecture offers the following NAAB-accredited degree programs: M. Arch. (high school degree = 175 credits), M. Arch. (pre-professional degree = 60 credits), and M. Arch. (non-pre-professional degree = 105 credits). The next accreditation visit is scheduled for 2017.

Mayra Ortega, Admissions Recruiter
email: maortega@fiu.edu
tel: (305)-348-4884
Office: PCA 273A
Department of Architecture
College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts
Florida International University

You can visit us in the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture Building, Office 272, Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Call (305) 348-2765 or email us at cartaadv@fiu.edu to make an appointment.